

Vast Teaching Machine Program Urged for U.S.

Only a vast investment in teaching machines and audio-visual devices will give American education the technological advantages necessary to raise it above its present status as a "primitive culture."

That conclusion was drawn Monday by the National Education Assn.'s technological development project in the University of California School of Education.

In a 125-page report, Dr. James D. Finn, USC professor of education and head of the

project, recommended one language laboratory for every school and one set of audio-visual devices for every five teachers as necessary for the "tooling up process." This set, Dr. Finn said, should include at least a motion picture projector, slide-film strip projector, overhead transparency projector, record player, and television receiver. "Until this modest 'tooling up' is achieved," the USC professor said, "there is little hope that we can apply new and exciting

teaching devices such as programmed learning, teaching machines and computers to the educational process."

"EDUCATION has been cut off from technological advances already enjoyed by business, industry and the scientific and military establishments," Dr. Finn and his associates declared in their report on "Studies in the Growth of Instructional Technology."

"In its 300 years of history,

American education has received no technical investment comparable to that made in other sectors of society. Because of this, we must view education as a relatively primitive undeveloped culture."

Education today has the technological know-how to do a better job; it has developed the techniques of using the teaching machine, radio, TV, 16-mm. projector, sound film, slide and filmstrip, opaque projector, record player, tape recorder and language lab.

"WHAT EDUCATION needs now is the machines themselves and the materials to go with them—and all in great quantities," said Dr. Finn, "or the technology itself will be wasted."

Cost of the recommended investment in these technological tools will necessarily be enormous, the Finn report admitted, but pointed out that in 1958 alone, the investment in basic audio-visual tools amounted to a little more than one-tenth of one per cent of

the total expenditure on public education in America. The report estimated the current total value of all audio-visual equipment in American education at \$272 million and said that schools added \$35 million in equipment this year alone.

A PROGRAM of research and development is badly needed to create a science of learning and a technology of instruction," the NEA report stated. "Infinitely more is known about the internal com-

bustion engine and the flow of electrons than is known about the process of reading," wrote USC's Finn. "However, the amount spent on research and development in all areas of education in the U. S. during the past 30 years is so small it does not even appear on the charts of the National Science Foundation."

American education today should be considered as a "culture in transition," the report noted with a favorable tone. "It is now beginning the take-off stage into a new, high-order, high-energy culture and it is the first national education system in the world to reach that stage."

THE MASSIVE numbers of

new students entering the educational system each year, the report noted, forces education to "run faster and faster in order to merely stand still."

"More teachers alone cannot meet this challenge," the Finn report said. "On the one hand we see more teachers and an apparent improvement in the teacher-pupil ratio. On the other hand we see the teachers overwhelmed by more students, longer school years, and the growing length of the average student's stay in school."

School administrators and teachers themselves must be more aware of the advantages and problems of technological devices when used in education, Dr. Finn noted.

"IN SOME cases, administrators have been so unaware of certain problems relating to the use of these devices as to ignore them completely while insisting on electric typewriters for their business offices and newly designed football helmets."

"Teachers all too often take what the business manager buys for them and do not relate their tools to either their professional competence or to their needs," the report said.

Prepared under a contract with the United States Office of Education, the report released today represents a high point in the work of the project which was established nearly two years ago.

Donald G. Perrin and Lee E. Campion collaborated with Dr. Finn in the authorship of the report, the sixth such paper issued by the project.

Other reports, soon to be released, include a study of the use of computers in education, one on the design of instructional equipment and reports on 8-mm. sound film, language laboratories, closed-circuit television and the revolution in the textbook publishing industry.

Vets Head Bruinsma Committee

Ron Owens, 1543 W. 154th, Gardena, and Oliver Vickery, 1427 Weymouth St., San Pedro, were today named co-chairmen of the 17th Congressional District "Veterans for Bruinsma" Committee.

"Ted Bruinsma is a veteran of both World War II and Korea," Owens said. "Not only does he understand the problems of the serviceman, but he has shown the militant courage we need in these troubled times to keep our country on top."

"No veteran of World War I, World War II, or Korea wants to see his efforts negated by policies of surrender and appeasement."

"OUR PRESENT congressmen stays silent on every vital issue facing our country. As veterans, as men who have fought for our country, we know the importance of taking a stand. Ted Bruinsma is the kind of man who deserves our support and we former servicemen of the 17th District mean to give him enough help to insure his election on Nov. 6th."

Owens is a veteran of World War II and past commander of his post in Gardena. Vickery is a veteran of World War I and long active in veterans affairs in the area.

Astronaut shave cream and Blast-off bath soap were two trademarks recently filed with the U. S. Patent Office.

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